

01/15/2015

EXHIBIT

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HB

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176

House Bill 176: Allow Cross-bows to be used for hunting during archery season.

Sponsor: Representative Forrest Mandeville, (R) HD 57

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify concerning this bill.

AND Representative Mandeville, thank you for sponsoring this bill.

I am testifying before you to show FAVOR for House Bill 176 that would allow cross-bows to be used for hunting during archery season.

My name is Terri Peterson; my hometown is Kalispell, MT. My occupation is that I am a Computer Programmer for the Dept. Of Justice. I do not have any affiliation with any other clubs or associations and come to testify on only my own behalf and my personal hunting experience.

I am a first time hunter this past hunting season, starting out at the young age of 50. Before last year, I had never hunted before. I am not an expert on hunting, nor an expert on archery or crossbows. But, I am here to share my hunting experience with you regarding crossbows.

Earlier this past year I successfully completed the required Bow hunter Education course. I hunted during the entire archery season with a compound bow, and extended my hunting season with a crossbow during the rifle season. In comparing my hunting experiences between the compound bow and the crossbow, I found that the cross bow definitely helps me overcome any physical limitations I may have for a successful hunt. I am an able-bodied woman, but I find that the physical strength needed to increase my chances of a successful and ethical hunt is limited with a compound bow. I believe that the crossbow affords me a small amount of extra range and also the power needed for an ethical kill. I believe this would also be a good argument for youth hunters, and also the elderly to continue to participate in this wonderful passion of hunting in this great state of Montana!

In regards to the addition of the crossbow to the archery season, I have learned that the two types of hunting seasons are distinctly different and require different strategies. I would much prefer to utilize the crossbow during archery season to afford me the chance of a successful hunt, esp. for the element of range, surprise and concealment. In conclusion, my hunting experience during the archery season was much more satisfactory, and I strongly support adding the crossbow to this experience!

By the way, if you are wondering if I filled my tag this past year, the answer is YES; my first whitetail deer ever, with my crossbow!

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, thank you for listening to my testimony to FAVOR the addition of the crossbow to the archery season.

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